(b) and (c) The scheme is under process for obtaining final approval of Government for its various elements and for deciding on the Ministry/Department which should take up its implementation.

Misuse of Central Assistance by NGOs

2117. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether works of NGOs, which are receiving grants, are supervised and monitored;

(b) if so, how could 40 NGOs obtain grants, as reported in the Asian Age, dated 7th February, 1999; and

(c) the measures taken to check rampant misuse of Central assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The performance of NGOs getting financial assistance from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of implementing specific schemes/programmes is monitored through periodic reports and returns prescribed for the purpose, and also Inspection reports obtained from the State Governments/UTs. Instances have, however, come to notice where certain NGOs have indulged in misutilisation of funds released by the Ministry or have sent fake recommendatory letter from the State Government. In such cases, after due verification, further release of grant is stopped and the State Governments are asked to take appropriate action against the NGO, including recovery of the grants given and seizure of assets created out of these grants. In cases where there is reason to believe that the reports submitted by the officials of State Government/UT are false, the concerned State Government/U.T. Administration is advised to initiate appropriate proceedings against the erring officials.

Rehabilitation of Mentally Impaired Persons

2118. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after the enactment of the Disability Act, 1996 (Act 1 of 1996), no schemes have been evolved, nor any steps taken for providing rehabilitation of the mentally impaired persons;

(b) if not, the details of the steps taken and schemes evolved for rehabilitation of such persons;

(c) the estimated number of such mentally impaired people in the country;

(d) whether any efforts are made to find ways to rehabilitate them in consultation with psychiatrics and other specialists; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No Sir.

for Minorities submits its recommendations to the Central and State Governments in pursuance of Section 9(1) (c) of the Act. These recommendations are placed in each House of Parliament by the Central Government and before State Legislatures by the concerned State Governments alongwith a Memorandum of action taken on the recommendations and the reasons for non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

(d) The National Commission for Minorities have made a number of recommendations in their Annual Reports for the years 1993-94 to 1997-98. These are under examination.